



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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Speaker Sprowls Applauds Governor Ron DeSantis for Signing “Always Ready” Flooding Agenda into Law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (May 12, 2021) — Today, Florida Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, praised Governor Ron DeSantis for signing into law SB 1954, and SB 2514, the most robust agenda to address the realities of sea level rise and flooding in the country.

“Today is not only a win for Florida’s environment but the communities and businesses along our coasts,” said Speaker Sprowls. “While we revel in Florida’s natural beauty and sunshine, we also recognize that our state is particularly vulnerable to the risk of flooding. With Governor Ron DeSantis’ signature today, Florida will have a statewide plan to address flooding for the first time. Thank you, Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, for carrying this legislation through the House. I would also like to thank Representative Chaney, and Chairs Buchanan, Massullo, and Tomkow for their hard work on this issue, Senate President Simpson for his leadership, and the Florida Senate for sharing our vision. Today we are protecting not only the natural wonders of our state, but the homes and livelihoods of Floridians and ensuring we are ‘Always Ready.’”

House sponsor, Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, R-Coral Gables, added, “Sea level rise and flooding does not care who you are or which zip code you live in. It affects all Floridians. It’s time to protect our homes, it’s time to protect our communities, and it’s time to protect our state as a whole. It’s time to make sure that we’re Always Ready.”

This legislation will dedicate \$100 million each year starting in 2022-2023 and:

- Establishes Florida’s first-ever three-year Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan.
- Calls for a statewide flood risk assessment by the Department of Environmental Protection to inform the Resilience Plan.

- Creates the Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide funds to local governments that would cover the costs of planning for and addressing threats from flooding and sea level rise.
- Encourages the formation of regional resilience coalitions to plan for the resilience needs of communities and coordinate intergovernmental solutions.
- Establishes the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation to collaborate with academic and research institutions to address the state's flooding and sea level rise challenges.

The legislation passed both the House and Senate and became effective following Governor DeSantis' signature.

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